

# CHATTANOOGA DAILY REBEL.

VOLUME I.

## THE DAILY REBEL.

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TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 1863.

### FORT DONELSON.

The facts elicited by the special Committee of the House of Representatives and by the War Department to Gens. Pillow and Floyd in regard to the fall Fort Donelson are very full.

The President in a special message to Congress states in substance that he was surprised that such a command should have been surrendered to the enemy without a desperate effort to force its way out, and that he had suspended Generals Floyd and Pillow, until he could obtain further information, and the War Department addressed an interrogatory to those Generals to ascertain the reason of the failure to evacuate Fort Donelson, when they found they could not hold it, and why they transferred the command to a junior General, instead of executing themselves whatever measure was deemed necessary for the entire army.

In the month of January 1862, General Buel was moving in the direction of Nashville by way of Bowling Green, with an army reported to the War Department at 50,000. General Grant was moving up the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers with a fleet of gunboats and a large army; the two being the armies which united at Shiloh.

Gen. Johnson dispatched four Brigadiers, Floyd, Pillow, Buckner, and B. R. Johnson with less than 16,000 effective men, officers and men being equal to any he had as he stated; he had previously dispatched Col. Gilmer then Chief of the Engineer Department of the West, now Chief Engineer of the Confederate States for the purpose of superintending the construction of proper defensive works on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers; he arrived at Fort Henry on the 31st of January and remained in that quarter till the fall of Fort Donelson, and accompanied Gen. Pillow and staff from there to Nashville, according to his report. This report states that Fort Henry on the Tennessee river, was surrendered to the enemy on the 6th day of February 1862, after a vigorous attack by gunboats. There was a land force of 9,000 men ready to co-operate with the gun-boats in the reduction of the place. The total Confederate force consisted of about 3,300 men according to Col. Gilmer, 2,800 according to Col. Heiman. Gen. Tighman, the officer in command with about 100 men surrendered to the enemy; the lamented Col. Heiman made his escape to Fort Donelson, or the town of Dover, on the south side of the Cumberland river, twelve miles distant, from Fort Henry, with about 2700 men.

Col. Gilmer states that "the fall of Fort Henry and the power of the enemy is struck at once with a strong force at Fort Donelson, made it necessary that the army at Bowling Green should be withdrawn to a point which would secure a prompt passage of the Cumberland."

The Tennessee river was now open for the passage of gunboats and transports to the borders of Mississippi and Alabama.

The day after the fall of Fort Henry on Friday the 7th of February, Gen. Johnson ordered that preparation be made to evacuate Bowling Green. The army began to march on Tuesday and passed the Cumberland river at Nashville on the 16th (Sunday) the day on which the surrender took place at Donelson.

Brig-General B. R. Johnson arrived on the 8th. Brig-General Pillow, whose brigade was at Columbus, was ordered to Donelson, and arrived on the 9th, three days after the fall of Fort Henry, and took command.

Col. Gilmer states that Gen. Pillow took immediate steps to inform himself of the character of the defences, that having received reinforcements and others being daily expected the lines of infantry cover were extended so as to embrace the town of Dover; that the batteries for the river defences were strengthened, and an additional force of artillerists were ordered to the defences. On the 12th General Buckner arrived and aided with zeal and energy in the defensive works.

On the 13th, Gen. Floyd arrived and assumed command, being authorized by Gen. A. S. Johnson, to take command of the forces and make such disposition as in his judgment might seem best."

It is inferable from Gen. Floyd's letter to Gen. Johnson, dated on the 12th, at Clarksville, that he supposed that the object of holding the position below Nashville, was to enable Gen. Johnston to pass to the south bank of the Cumberland with his army, before the arrival of gunboats at that place.

Col. Gilmer states that on the 13th the enemy attempted to storm the entrenchments but after a vigorous onset they were repulsed; that on the 14th the river batteries were attacked by seven gunboats; that they stoutly advanced until they came within three hundred yards (others say one hundred and fifty) that after a most terrible struggle they were scattered and repulsed and took no further part in the reduction of the garrison; that not a man

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## TELEGRAPHIC.

[SPECIAL TO THE DAILY REBEL.]

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 21.—Another French war steamer has appeared off the harbor this morning.

One of the Yankee gunboats, flying a flag of truce, has just steamed in close to our batteries on Sullivan's Island. A boat from Fort Sumter has boarded her. The unusual event caused much speculation concerning her object. Nothing known in the city yet.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 22.—The object of the Yankee flag of truce, yesterday, was to bring orders from Lord Lyons to the British steamer Petrel, now here, to sail immediately to Washington; also to bring letters for officers of the captured gunboat Isaac Smith. The Petrel goes tomorrow. As her purpose was to be here during the attack. Many believe the attack to be postponed. Other indications confirm this impression.

The quarrel of Hunter and Foster has caused much confusion in the enemy's arrangements.

Fort Sumter, today, fired a salute in honor of Washington's birthday.

CONGRESSIONAL.

RICHMOND, Feb. 21.—The Senate met in session to day.

In the House, various resolutions of enquiry were adopted. A bill was passed for the establishment of an equalization grade of officers of the army. The House then went into secret session on the currency bill.

After quoting from the Times that Beast Butler has "tasters" to prove the larcenies of his rascals, wears a coat of mail, etc., Punch says:

YALLANDIGHAM IN NEW JERSEY.

Yallandigham made another one of his sensational speeches in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday last.

He said that "I remember that it was in the city of Newark, a little more than two years ago, that I first gave the pledge to any portion of the people of the United States, that I never would contribute, by words or acts, to the shedding of one drop of American blood in a civil war."

He believed that a reconstruction of the Union would take place in his day. Nobody now believes after two years of war that we have accomplished, or can by his means accomplish, the restoration of the Union, except Wm. H. Seward. He sees everything in the color of the rose. I believe the war is now conducted for the abolition of slavery. This cannot take place until the Government itself becomes a despotism. I don't choose to sell my precious inheritance and boon of political and personal liberty, for which the fields of New Jersey were stained with blood, for the purpose of giving liberty to the negro (Great applause). There is now a party who assumes that the war has failed, and urge a separation of the States. I abhor that party.

There is another who believe that the war has failed and desire to try the experiment of bringing the South back to conciliation and compromise. I am not of that party. (Great cheering.) Seventy-five out of every hundred of men of the Northwest are in favor of a cessation of hostilities and a commencement of the experiment of restoring the Union by constitutional measures. (Cheers.) There is a third party, who call themselves the conservative, of which Wm. H. Seward is to be the leader—the name Wm. H. Seward who was the author of the phrase, "irrepressible conflict," the man who first signed his hand to the warrant for arbitrary arrest.

Shall the Democratic party be reduced for one moment to strike hands with those who desire to change the purposes of the administration, and bring it back again to a war for the Union, when the whole people unit can not accomplish anything before the 4th of March, 1865? Will the war continue during that time? ("Never, never," from all parts of the room.) Will men out your sons again to battle field? (Overwhelming cries, "Never, never!") Shall they be conscripted to carry on this war for two years more, and for the negro? ("No, never!") Shall we do this with the vain, futile, absurd, and most unfounded hope that after the fourth of March, 1865, after four years of such war as God Almighty never permitted to scourge any land, we will go back again to a war for the Union? ("No, never!") The people of America must choose now what alternative.

Seeing that this is a point of so much consequence—that Gen. Bragg thinks so well of it, that he often pays it a visit—that several very distinguished of Gen. Bragg's military relations, friends and comrades-in-arms actually inhabit it—and above all, seeing that it is under my own observance at this moment, and that I am obliged to remain here a bit, can I do better than give you a pen and ink, may, a dim lead pencil sketch of it?

A shocking place! (I mean for a gentleman!) A dismal, melancholy depot station. A place for bats to fly, and owls to hunt. Such, such as in Tullahoma! Take a trip into Purgatory, by way of "Benn's hole," and pass a flying visit to Corinth, Mississippi; or return, and you may get some notion of it; nothing else will suffice; language, woful, impetuous or descriptive, fails altogether. A few scalded and aquainted tenements (crummed, jammed and damned worse than the black hole of Calcutta, wide Macaulay!) mud up to the eyes; nor having stone, nor curb; black jacks around you as about you; and a leaden, over rainy sky above you!

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after the manner of my little anti-slavery friends, Webster and Hayne. The contest was quite equal to the celebrated "Interview" between these two individuals, and the sub stance is briefly, as follows:

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of the former. An hour was appointed, a vast assemblage collected, both entered a ring arranged, the combatants placed in position intense excitement; much gambling on the result; terrible odds. Do not be alarmed, I mean no description, in detail. I know, as well as you do, that I am not writing for Bell's Life, and am conscious of some interest to Pierce Egan. The battle was fought, the victory won, the box of provisions paid over when lo, a second champion appeared, and offered to eat the entire contents for twenty-two dollars Confederate, or, in default of so doing, pay down to the owner thereof, the sum of one hundred dollars.

The wager was accepted. Bets were again offered and taken. Excitement again resumed.

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In such diverting and fantastic sports, do we pass the time, unlike Richard in the play, finding many delights therein.

THE CONDITION.

And yet we are well. Indeed I may say, for effects of the crash at Murfreesboro have long since disappeared. Cheerfulness seems on the face of officer and private; ranks are filled up, convalescents returned; and stragglers generally at their old posts. If the genius for great strategic plans, for grand campaigns, and the extensive, versatile and varying line of action, ent up into a species of single combat, all bear a certain relation to the scenes and events conducted by Lee and Jackson over corn-field and meadow in the Old Dominion; and the picture of the one gives a pretty distinct likeness of the other. Would the results were equallyakin! \* \* \*

At the present moment our "front" faces the enemy in several directions. Although this has been said before, I will repeat it. Let me take a sweeping review of the "Situation."—What shall say will not be indecent, for my remarks will be general, and are intended for the benefit of all.

BUTTERNUT.

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Yallandigham made another one of his sensational speeches in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday last.

He said that "I remember that it was in the city of Newark, a little more than two years ago, that I first gave the pledge to any portion of the people of the United States, that I never would contribute, by words or acts, to the shedding of one drop of American blood in a civil war."

He believed that a reconstruction of the Union would take place in his day. Nobody now believes after two years of war that we have accomplished, or can by his means accomplish, the restoration of the Union, except Wm. H. Seward. He sees everything in the color of the rose. I believe the war is now conducted for the abolition of slavery. This cannot take place until the Government itself becomes a despotism. I don't choose to sell my precious inheritance and boon of political and personal liberty, for which the fields of New Jersey were stained with blood, for the purpose of giving liberty to the negro (Great applause). There is now a party who assumes that the war has failed, and urge a separation of the States. I abhor that party.

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